

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1585

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SUBJECT: AUGUST 18 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG

REF: A. STATE 190846; B. 194626; C. PEKING 1536; PEKING 1562

1. THE BLOSSOMING OF WANG HAI-JUNG AS A SELF CONFIDENT
PURVEYOR OF STANDARD PRC PUBLIC FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATIONS
(FIRST OBSERVED WHEN I CALLED ON HER AUGUST 16 TO DISCUSS
THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE AT THE UN) CONTINUED AT THE LUNCHEON
I HOSTED FOR HER AUGUST 18. I SUSPECT WANG MAY HAVE
BEEN PRIMED ALSO TO DEAL WITH CURRENT ISSUES CONCERNING
THE OPERATIONS OF THE LIAISON OFFICES, BUT IN LIGHT OF
THE STATE REFTELS I STAYED AWAY FROM THESE SUBJECTS.
WANG FOR HER PART INTIATED JUST ONE BILATERAL TOPIC,
THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, THIS CLEARLY TO REITERATE THAT
IT WILL BE UP TO THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE WHAT HIS VISIT
TO CHINA WILL ACCOMPLISH.

2. ACCOMPANYING WANG TO THE LUNCHEON WERE MFA
AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
LIN PING, WHO SEEMED TOTALLY ABSORBED IN CATCHING
WANG'S EVERY UTTERANCE; DEPUTY DIRECTOR TANG WEN-SHENG;
U.S. DIVISION DIRECTOR TING YUAN-HUNG; AND AN INTERPRETER
RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM THE UN, SHIH YEN-HUA. THAYER,
THOMAS, BROOKS AND PASCOE WERE THE OTHERS PRESENT
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ON THE USLO SIDE. THE LUNCHEON RESULTED FROM

MY HAVING MENTIONED TO WANG DURING CODEL PERCY'S VISIT TO PEKING THAT I'D LIKE TO ENTERTAIN HER AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK UNDER HER ON U.S. AFFAIRS BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON.

2. BEFORE WE WENT TO LUNCH AND UNTIL ABOUT HALF WAY THROUGH THE LUNCH THE CONVERSATION CONSISTED MOSTLY OF MY TRYING TO FIND OUT IF SHE HAD ANYTHING TO SAY, ANYTHING THAT IS NOT ALREADY WELL KNOWN TO READERS OF PEOPLE'S DAILY, ON CURRENTLY TOPICAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. SHE DIDN'T HAVE, BUT SEVERAL OF HER REMARKS--E.G. THAT ALL THERE IS TO SHOW FOR THE EUROPEAN "INSECURITY" CONFERENCE IS "40 TONS OF PAPER" AND THAT IN INDIA "DEMOCRACY'S WINDOW HAS HAD ITS PANES BROKEN"--WERE TREATED BY HER UNDERLINGS AS SPLENDID WITTICISMS.

3. IN AN EXCHANGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, IT APPEARED BRIEFLY THAT WANG MIGHT BE WILLING TO DEPART FROM THE LEXICON. PRESSED ON CHINA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL'S NATIONAL RIGHTS, SHE VOLUNTEERED THAT THE CHINESE OF COURSE DID NOT DENY THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, DID NOT DESIRE THAT IT SHOULD BE ANNIHILATED AND ITS PEOPLE SWEEPED INTO THE OCEAN. BUT, PERHAPS DECIDING SHE HAD BEEN TO FORTHCOMING, SHE NEXT SAID THAT ANY OUTCOME THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE ARAB PEOPLES WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO THE CHINESE.

4. WANG HAD NOTHING TO OFFER ON WHO WOULD BE LEADING PRC DELEGATIONS TO UN SPECIAL SESSION AND GA. (NB: WE LEARNED NEXT DAY BY VISA APPLICATION THAT LI CHIANG WOULD LEAD SPECIAL SESSION DEL). ON CHOU EN-LAI'S HEALTH, WANG SAID HE IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL ON THE ADVICE OF HIS DOCTORS. CHIAO KUAN-HUA (WHO HAD BEEN ILL THE FIRST DAYS OF THE CODEL PERCY VISIT) WAS FEELING BETTER, SHE SAID.

5. ABOUT MID-WAY THROUGH THE LUNCH, OBVIOUSLY HAVING IN MIND MY FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS, SHE SAID SHE WOULD BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS I MIGHT HAVE. I SAID I HAD NO PARTICULAR QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME;
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THAT THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS BUT I THOUGHT THESE COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN OTHER CHANNELS. IT WAS AFTER THIS THAT WANG BROUGHT UP THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND TENG'S RECENT COMMENTS THEREON. I SAID I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD THING THAT TENG HAD PUT THE PRC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE VISIT ON THE PUBLIC RECORD (THIS OF COURSE REFERRING TO TENG'S REMARKS TO THE ASNE GROUP AND CODEL PERCY).

6. NANCY TANG WAS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE CHINESE PARTY WHO WILLINGLY ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH USLO OFFICERS WHILE WANG WAS TALKING. TANG SEEMED PARTICULARLY KEEN TO ASCERTAIN US AND INDIAN VIEWS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN BANGLADESH AND SHE LEFT OPEN WHETHER OR NOT THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT THERE WOULD LEAD TO CHINESE RECOGNITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TANG ALSO PUSHED THE LINE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD REASSESS ITS POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINA AND PARTICULARLY TOWARD CAMBODIA.
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